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Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in the context of action taken by the Security Council regarding the provision of support to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, which was established to implement the ruling of the International Court of Justice on the Cameroon-Nigeria border dispute. In his letter dated 17 March 2004 to the President of the Security Council (S/2004/298), the Secretary-General apprised the Council of the activities undertaken with regard to the implementation of the Court's ruling and indicated that in order to ensure the successful implementation of the ruling, it was vital to secure the necessary funding to enable the United Nations to continue to support the Mixed Commission. He also indicated that it was his intention to seek such funding from the regular budget. In his reply dated 15 April 2004 (S/2004/299), the President of the Council informed the Secretary-General that the Council had taken note of the information contained in the letter.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/271 A of 23 December 2003, appropriated a total of $169,431,700 for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. Of that amount, $142,476,900 was approved during the first part of the fifty-eighth session of the Assembly as a charge against the provision for special political missions for 21 such missions authorized by the Assembly or the Security Council. Accordingly, the resulting unallocated balance at that time in the provision for special political missions was $26,954,800 (see A/C.5/58/33). Subsequently, in the context of the implementation of Council resolution 1526 (2004) on the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team and resolutions 1527 (2004) and 1528 (2004) on the

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rollover of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Côte d' Ivoire, an additional amount of $5,608,400 was charged against the provision for special political missions. Currently, the unallocated balance in the provision for special political missions for the biennium 2004-2005 stands at $21,346,400.

The present report contains the proposed resource requirements for the provision of support to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission for a seven-month period, from 1 June to 31 December 2004. The estimated requirements of $6,902,900, with the approval of the General Assembly, would be charged against the unallocated balance in the provision for special political missions for the biennium 2004-2005.

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I. Introduction

1. The purpose of the present report is to seek the necessary funding in the biennium 2004-2005 relating to the provision of support to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission on the basis of a request of the Secretary-General to the Security Council and the latter's reply.

2. The Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission was established, at the request of the Presidents of Cameroon and Nigeria, following the tripartite summit held in Geneva on 15 November 2002 between the two Presidents and the Secretary-General in order to move forward on the implementation of the decision of the International Court of Justice on the Cameroon-Nigeria land and maritime boundary dispute. The Mixed Commission is chaired by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa.

3. The Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission support arrangement was established to provide United Nations assistance in the implementation of the decision of the International Court of Justice. The initial resource requirements were met, under an ad hoc arrangement, from extrabudgetary resources. That arrangement has proven to be unsustainable. Consequently, on the basis of a request of the Secretary-General to the Security Council dated 17 March 2004 (S/2004/298) and the latter's response of 15 April 2004 (S/2004/299), the budgetary requirements for this operation are being submitted for funding under the assessed contribution.

4. The total resource requirements for the provision of support to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission to the end of 2004 amount to $6,902,900 and relate to a staffing requirement of 21 posts. Further details are provided in section III of the present report. Those requirements would be charged against the current unallocated balance of $21,346,400 existing in the provision for special political missions for the biennium 2004-2005. The financing action requested of the General Assembly is set out in section IV below.

II. Special political mission emanating from the Security Council: support for the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission

Background, mandate and objective

5. In anticipation of the ruling of the International Court of Justice and in an effort to secure the prior commitment of Cameroon and Nigeria to the implementation of the Court's expected decision on their boundary dispute, the Presidents of the two countries met with the Secretary-General in Paris on 5 September 2002 at his invitation. In a press release issued at the end of the meeting, both heads of State agreed to respect and implement the Court's ruling and to establish an implementation mechanism with the support of the United Nations. The two Presidents also agreed on the need for a number of confidence-building measures aimed at strengthening overall ties between their two countries.

6. Following the Court's announcement of its ruling on 10 October 2002, the Secretary-General invited the Cameroonian and Nigerian Presidents to a second tripartite summit, which was held in Geneva on 15 November 2002. In a joint communiqué issued after the meeting, both Presidents renewed their commitment to

renounce the use of force in their bilateral relations and to pursue peaceful means for the settlement of their boundary differences. In order to move forward on the implementation of the Court's decision, both Presidents requested the Secretary-General to establish a mixed commission, to be chaired by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa.

7. The Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission was established to consider the implications of the Court's decision, including the demarcation of the land boundary between the two countries; making recommendations on additional confidence-building measures, such as the development of projects to promote joint economic ventures and cross-border cooperation; troop withdrawal from relevant areas along the land boundary; eventual demilitarization of the Bakassi peninsula with the possibility of deploying international personnel to observe the withdrawal; and reactivation of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, a five-nation structure of which Cameroon and Nigeria are leading members. A working calendar of the Mixed Commission was negotiated and endorsed by both parties on 6 August 2003, and was revised in early April 2004 in the light of the tasks accomplished thus far.

8. The Mixed Commission is composed of representatives from Cameroon and Nigeria and is chaired by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The Mixed Commission has established two subcommissions, one responsible for the demarcation of land boundary and the other responsible for affected populations. The United Nations provides substantive and logistical support to the work of the Mixed Commission and its two subcommissions.

9. The subcommission on demarcation of the land boundary between the two countries reports on the progress of its work at the bimonthly meetings of the Mixed Commission.

10. As mandated, the subcommission on demarcation has prepared a small-scale map indicating the boundary as well as a work programme for the demarcation exercise, which was approved by the Mixed Commission at its second meeting, held in Abuja in February 2003.

11. The responsibilities of the subcommission on affected populations are to identify the affected populations, to assess their situation on the ground, including identifying the specific rights that need to be protected, and to consider modalities to achieve this goal. To date, the subcommission has already carried out a series of visits to the Lake Chad area, the land boundary and the Bakassi peninsula, and its reports have been adopted by the Mixed Commission. One of the most important tasks carried out by the Mixed Commission is the successful completion of the withdrawal and transfer of authority of the civil administration and the military and police forces in the Lake Chad area, which took place from 8 to 18 December 2003. Following the conclusion of the Lake Chad process, the two heads of State and the Secretary-General met in Geneva on 31 January 2004 to review the progress achieved by the Commission. They endorsed the work completed thus far and instructed the Commission to carry out the rest of its tasks according to its working calendar.

12. The United Nations began providing support to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission in December 2002. The work of the Mixed Commission is gaining momentum and is expected to be completed by the end of 2005. The related objective, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement are set out in the table below.

Objective, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement

Objective: To achieve the peaceful settlement of the border dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria in accordance with the 10 October 2002 ruling of the International Court of Justice.

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement	Outputs
1. Compliance by Cameroon and Nigeria with the International Court of Justice Judgment issued on 10 October 2002 regarding the demarcation of the land and maritime boundary between the two countries, including withdrawals and transfers of authority	1.1 Sustained participation of Cameroon and Nigeria in the meetings of the subcommission on demarcation, of the working group on withdrawals and transfers of authority and of the working group on the maritime boundary 1.2 Active support by Cameroon and Nigeria of the demarcation activities 1.3 Receipt of voluntary contributions for the demarcation exercise 1.4 Withdrawal of civil authority and military and police forces from the nearly 1,700-km-long land boundary and the approximately 1,000-square-km Bakassi peninsula and the transfer of authority, as agreed by the parties 1.5 Establishment of new administrations by Cameroon or Nigeria in areas where transfer of authority has occurred 1.6 Increased free circulation of persons and goods across the Cameroon-Nigeria border	• Common base map of the land boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria of about 1,700 km of the common border • Initiation of the establishment of geodetic datum stations • Establishment of and provision of support to working groups of the Mixed Commission • Provision of advice and support to the working group on withdrawals from the land boundary and the Bakassi peninsula and the transfer of authority • Report to the Mixed Commission on the completed withdrawals from the Lake Chad area, the land boundary and the Bakassi peninsula and the transfer of authority • Facilitation of discussions between the parties on maritime boundary-related issues and on economic cooperation including possible joint ventures

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement	Outputs
2. Continued respect for the rights of the people affected by the border dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria (the Lake Chad area, the land boundary and the Bakassi peninsula)	2.1. Sustained participation of Cameroon and Nigeria in the subcommission on affected populations	• Assessment and follow-up visits by members of the Mixed Commission to border communi-ties affected by the dispute
	2.2. Relevant international instruments, to which both Cameroon and Nigeria have acceded to, are applied to respect the rights of the affected populations	• Assessment, by civilian observer personnel of the Mixed Commission, of the conditions of affected populations
		• Visit to border communities to consider possible confidence-building initiatives across the border to address the well-being of affected populations

13. The programme is expected to achieve its objective provided the political, social and economic environment in the two countries remains conducive to the implementation of the Court's Judgment, the local population cooperates and donor funding for the demarcation exercise is received.

III. Estimated resource requirements

14. The estimated requirements of the United Nations arrangement to support the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission for a seven-month period, from 1 June to 31 December 2004, would amount to $6,902,900. Those requirements would provide for: (a) the costs of 4 military advisers/liaison officers ($189,700); (b) civilian personnel costs estimated at $5,116,300, consisting of salaries and common staff costs for 21 staff, indicated in the table below ($1,038,700), the costs of 32 civilian observers to be deployed in the Lake Chad area, along the land boundary and on the Bakassi peninsula to ensure stability following the withdrawal of armed forces and police ($2,848,000), the costs of services of experts on specific issues, including the demarcation of the land boundary, the maritime boundary, environmental issues, economic issues, civil affairs, security issues and social affairs ($308,300), contractual services ($246,000) and official travel of staff ($675,300); and (c) other related operational requirements ($1,596,900).

Staffing requirements proposed for 2004

D-1	*P-5*	*P-4*	*P-3*	*P-2*	***Subtotal***	*General Service*	***Subtotal, international***	*Local level*	***Total***
1	4	6	2	1	**14**	1	**15**	6	**21**

15. The initial support provided to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission by the United Nations, for the period from January 2003 to May 2004, were met under an ad hoc arrangement from extrabudgetary resources. As that arrangement proved to be unsustainable, the Secretary-General, in his letter of 17 March 2004 to the President of the Security Council, apprised the Council of the activities undertaken

and progress made in the implementation of the Court's ruling, and indicated that in order to ensure the successful completion of the implementation of the ruling, it was vital to secure the funding necessary to enable the United Nations to continue to support the Mixed Commission. He also indicated that it was his intention to seek such funding from the regular budget. In his reply of 15 April 2004, the President of the Council took note of the information contained in the letter.

IV. Action required by the General Assembly

16. **Should the General Assembly endorse the proposal set out herein, it may wish to approve a charge of $6,902,900 against the unallocated balance of the provision for special political missions appropriated under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.**